

Abstract

A novel *sarR* gene and *sarR* gene product which down regulates the expression of *sarA* and the resulting virulence determinants in *Staphylococcus aureus* is provided. Methods for modulating the expression of *sarA* and virulence determinants are also provided. A preferred embodiment of the present invention provides structural information relating to the gene product and enables the identification and formulation of lead compounds and reducements for treating and preventing infections by *S. aureus* and related bacteria.